



WISCONSIN'S DRAFT 2016 IMPAIRED WATERS LIST

Public Informational Webinar

November 3, 2015

INTRODUCTION

- Water quality standards are the foundation
- Impaired waters don't meet water quality standards
- States are required to develop list of impaired waters
- Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), or cleanup plans, are developed for impaired waters
- Restored waterbodies are removed from the list

LISTING PROCESS

1. Preparation of listing methodology
2. Compilation of readily available data
3. Assessment of available data
4. Public notice of draft list
5. Send finalized list to EPA for approval

[Link to Fact Sheet](#)



LIST UPDATED ON EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS

- The 2014 impaired waters list is the most current, EPA-approved list.
 - http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/impairedwaters/2014IR_IWList.html
- The draft 2016 list is the current update
 - http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/impairedwaters/2016IR_IWList.html

HOW IS THE LIST USED?

- Management tool for tracking water quality status
 - Cleanup plans are tracked
 - Delisted waterbodies are success stories
- DNR **does not** use the list as a measure of water quality trends
 - Changes can be driven by updated water quality standards, assessment methods and monitoring strategies



WATER QUALITY TRENDS

- Trends have been both positive and negative over the last 20 years at long-term river monitoring stations
 - Phosphorus, ammonia and suspended solids concentrations have **decreased**
 - Nitrate and chloride concentrations have **increased**



DESIGNATED USES AND CRITERIA

- **Fish and Aquatic Life**
 - Fish, invertebrates and algal data
 - Phosphorus, sediment, and stream habitat
 - Aquatic toxicity
- **Public Health and Welfare**
 - Fish consumption
 - Human health criteria
- **Recreational Uses**
 - Beaches - bacteria
 - Inland lakes – algae and phosphorus
- **Wildlife**
 - Aquatic toxicity

IMPAIRED WATERS CONSEQUENCES

- Point Source Dischargers
 - Dischargers with potential to cause or contribute to an impairment
 - Important considerations:
 - TMDL areas
 - Offsets allowed (e.g. pollutant trading)

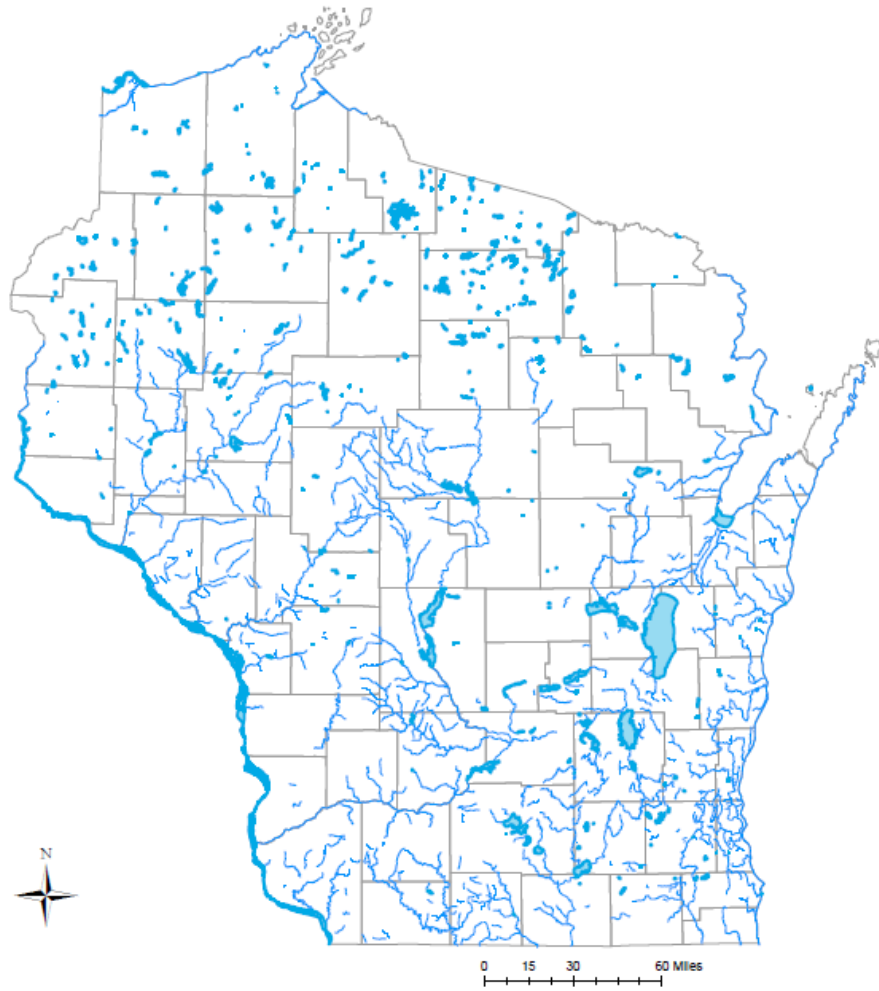
IMPAIRED WATERS BENEFITS

- Provides impetus for restoration work
- Funding Incentives
 - USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grants
 - EPA Section 319 Grant

PROPOSED 2016 LISTING UPDATES

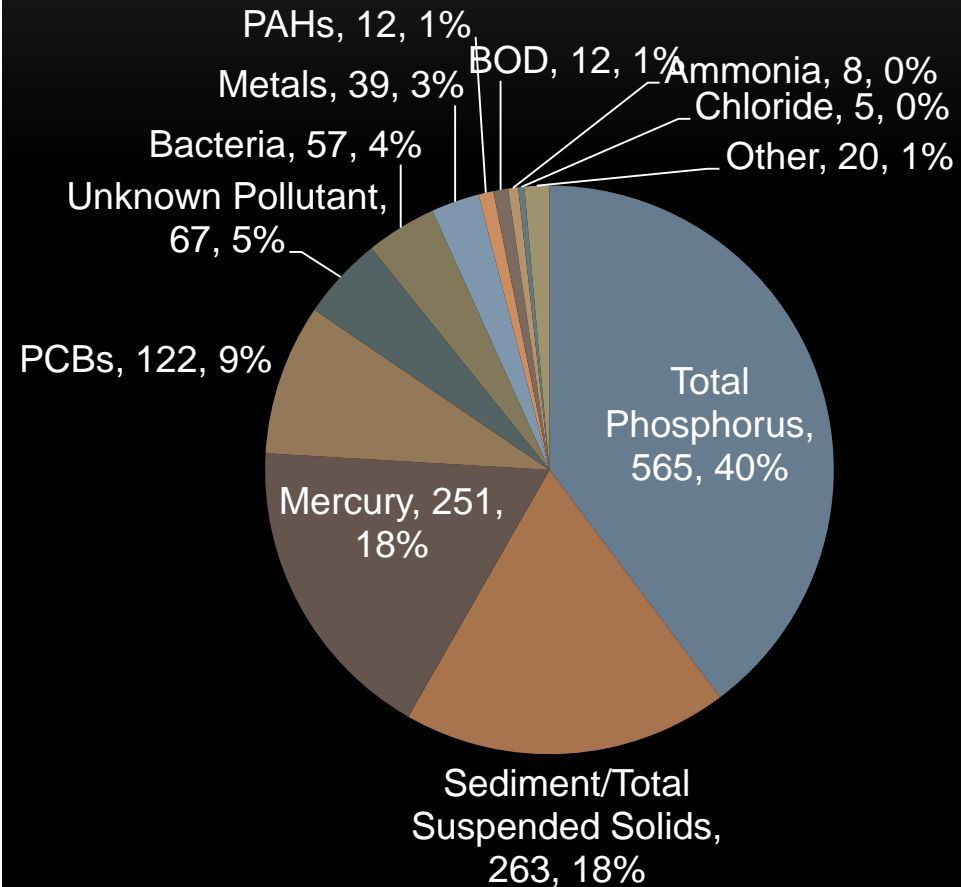
- Over 2,400 waterbodies were assessed this cycle.
- 209 new waterbodies are proposed for the list.
 - A majority of the waterbody additions (130) are those that exceed total phosphorus criteria.
 - 65 new listings are “use impairments” based on poor biological condition or excess algal growth.
 - 29 new listings are those that exceed thermal criteria.
- The comprehensive draft 2016 list contains 1,294 waterbodies (previous list contained 1,085).
- Ten waterbodies are proposed to be removed from the list.

CURRENT EPA-APPROVED LISTINGS BY POLLUTANT



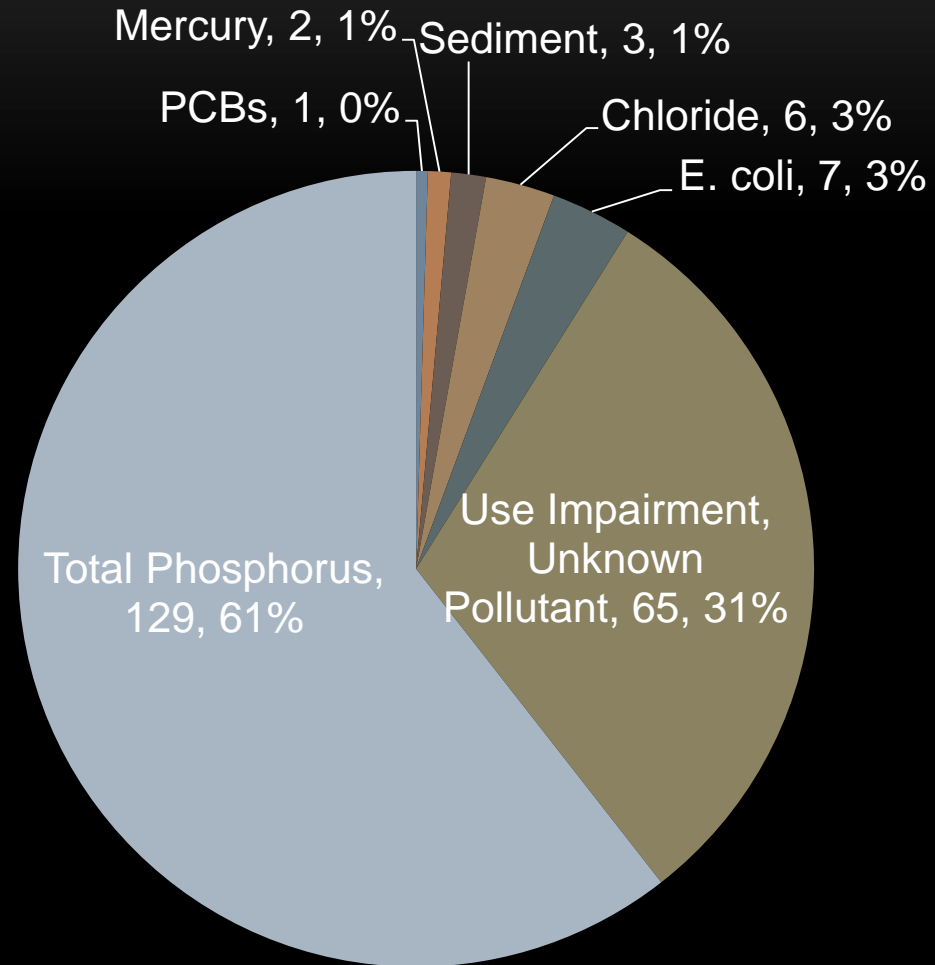
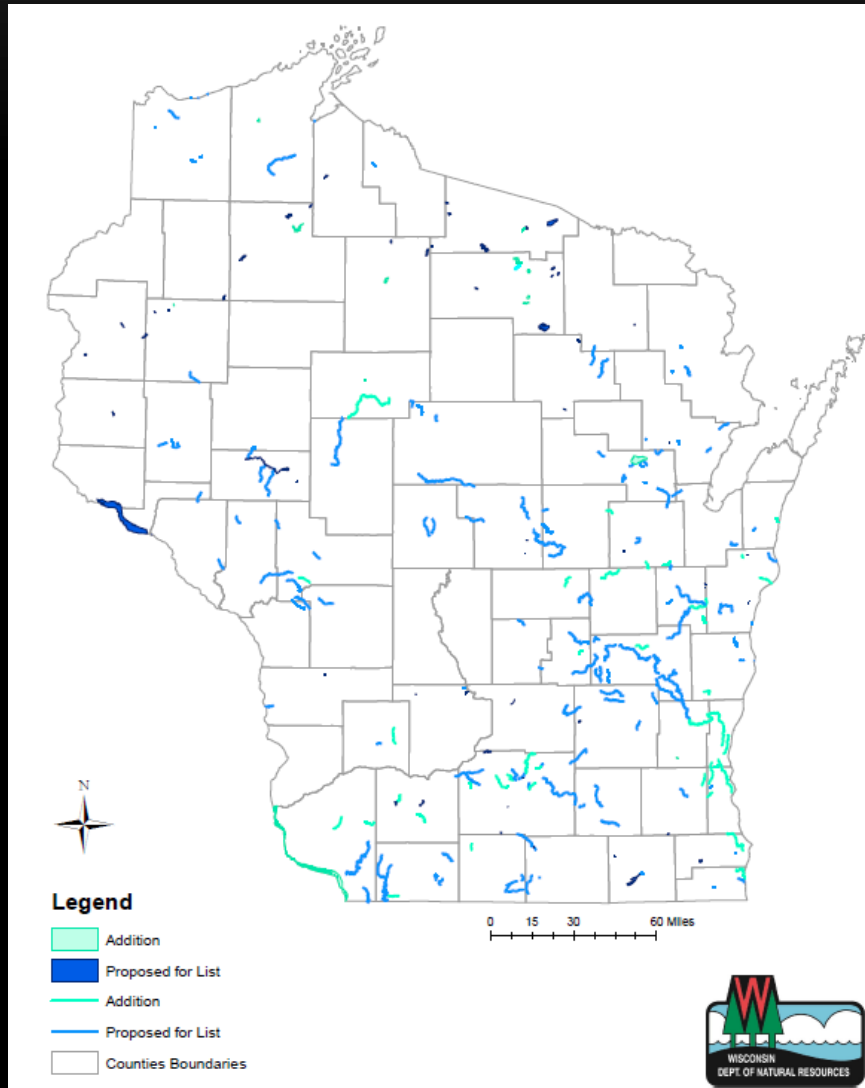
Legend

- EPA-Approved Lake / Reservoir Listings
- EPA-Approved Stream / River Listings
- Counties Boundaries



* The current list includes a total of 1,421 waterbody /pollutant combinations.

PROPOSED WATERBODY LISTINGS BY POLLUTANT



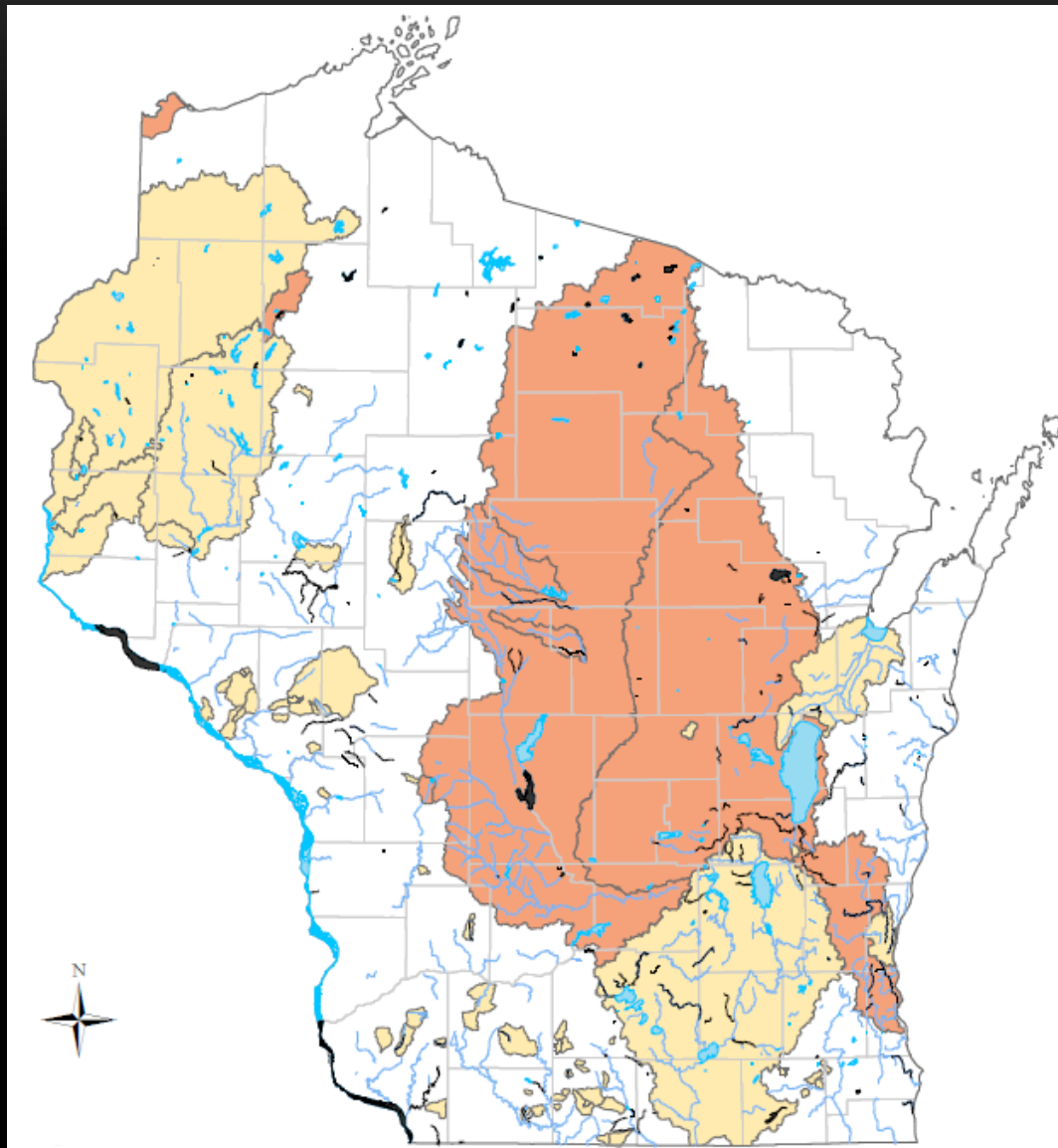
* Graph represents the number of pollutant listings for waterbodies newly-proposed for the 2016 draft list.

NEXT STEPS FOR RESTORING IMPAIRED WATERS

- Identify the cause, where unknown
- Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)
- Alternative restoration plans



NEW PHOSPHORUS LISTINGS IN TMDL AREAS



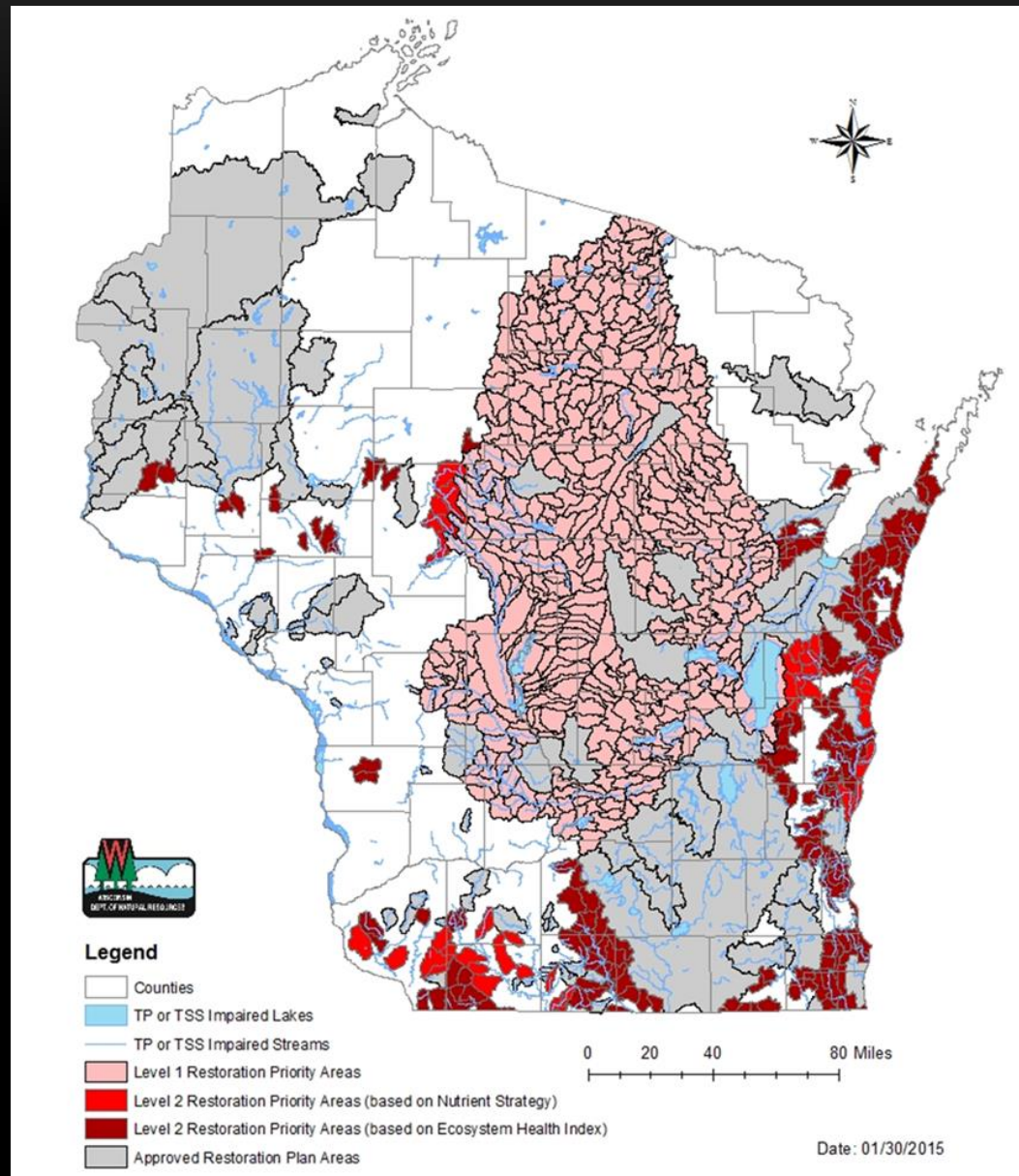
Legend

- Proposed Lakes / Reservoirs Listing Updates
 - EPA-Approved Lake / Reservoir Listings
 - Proposed Streams / Rivers Listing Updates
 - EPA-Approved Stream / River Listings
 - County Boundaries
- TMDL Status**
- TMDL Approved
 - TMDL Development

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

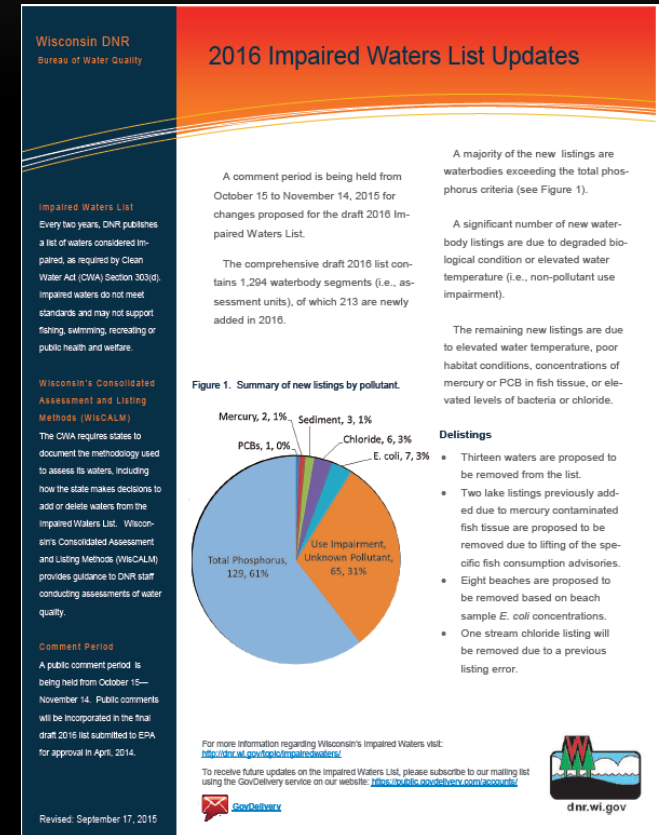
- A 30-day comment period
 - Ends November 25, 2015
 - DNR invites comments on listing updates and priority status for restoration plan development.
 - Framework for prioritizing listings for restoration plan development [PDF]

RESTORATION PLAN PRIORITY AREAS



RESOURCES ON OUR WEBSITE

- Comment period
- Press Release
- **Fact Sheets:**
 - Listing Process
 - 2016 Listing Updates
- **Wisconsin's Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methods (WisCALM)**
 - 2016 Version



VIEW THE LISTINGS

- Link to draft of comprehensive list
 - Tab A. Proposed 2016 Impaired Waters List
 - Tab B. Proposed Waterbody Delistings
 - Tab C. Proposed Cause Deletions
- The Impaired Waters Search Tool
 - Search DNR's WATERS database for impaired waters listings
- The Surface Water Data Viewer
 - Search impaired waters listings on a map

QUESTIONS?

Contact Information

Aaron Larson

DNR, Water Evaluation Section (WY/3)

P.O. Box 7921

Madison, WI 53707

Email: DNRImpairedWaters@wisconsin.gov

Phone: 608.264.6129

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/impairedwaters/>